GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1162
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME
RAJO SINGH;SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the press reports that the Supreme Court has pulled up the States to have failed to provide cooked mid-day meals for primary schools children;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Court has ordered to prohibit the allocation of funds to States if the Scheme is not implemented;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) the names of the States where children are not being served mid-day-meals despite the warning issued by the Supreme Court; and

(f) the details of the steps taken by the Government against these States, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Some newspapers have reported that the Hon'ble Supreme Court ofIndia has warned that action would be taken against the States not implementing a cooked meal programme under Mid-day Meal Scheme. Ithas been further reported that the apex court had rejected the applications of Delhi, West Bengal, Mizoram, Manipur andNagaland seeking modification of earlier order making it mandatory for States/UTs to distribute cooked meals in schools under the Scheme.

(c): Government is not aware of any such judgement passed by the Hon'ble Court.

(d): In view of (c) above, does not arise.

(e). As per the available information the States other than Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa (8 KBK districts and ITDAblocks), Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh (Tribal blocks), Karnataka (7 educationally backward districts and by 9 NGOs in Rural Bangalore district), UTs of A&N Islands, Delhi (ready-to-eat food), Dadra& Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Pondicherry are not providing cooked meals.

(f): The Ministry had convened a meeting on 16.1.2002 of Education Secretaries/NodalOfficers of States/UTs toreview implementation of the programme and had requested all defaulting States/UTs to implement the programme as per the directions of the Hon'ble Court dated 29.11.2001. The Ministry has been constantly urging these States/UTs to introduce a cooked meal programme.